Miscellanea.

THE BISHOP OF ELY'S SHAKSPEARE PORTRAIT.—The paragraph which appeared in our pages relative to a picture in the possession of the Bishop of Ely, supposed to be a portrait of Shakspeare, excited considerable interest, and was reprinted by the majority of our contemporaries. We have since seen the picture, and are prepossessed in favour of its genuineness. It is without the beard, closely resembling the engraving in the folio edition, to which were appended Ben Jonson's well-known lines. The painting is on a panel, 1 ft. 8 in. by 1 ft. 3½ in.; and when found, was in an old ebony frame, covered with dirt, and disregarded. It was bought for a few shillings, solely on the ground of its likeness to Shakspeare. The date and age (1603, æt. 39) serving to confirm this impression, were not discovered till afterwards: these are in the left-hand corner of the picture, at the top, in the same position as they are in the portrait of Cornelius Jansen, dated 1610.

FLIXTON HALL.—A writer in the *Bury Herald*, speaking of the building recently destroyed, says:—"The stair step exhibited a remarkable evidence of the unsparing desire of the ancients to give all possible room and accessibility to this part of the building, as they were of the enormous width of eight feet, and broad in proportion in the tread. The windows, which, it is said, originally were equal in number to the days in a year, consisted of girt lights, varying in number from six to sixteen, and glazed in lead, curiously composed of octangular panes, and small internal lozenges. On the upper landing were three unusually wide oak doors (with rudely manufactured locks of iron), the centre of which, and which led to the saloon, contained panels of curiously carved workmanship, with architraves containing two grotesque figures carved in bold relief. The hall, an apartment of neither space nor architectural pretensions, was remarkable for possessing a very antique fire-place, entirely of iron, exhibiting the heraldic bearings of the proprietor, and a curious old oak chest, containing rare specimens of china."

THE 3,000*l.* FINE.—Mr. Jenkins's attempt to quash the order of amercement by the Westminster Sewers' Commissioners has failed, Lord Denman deciding, on the 17th instant, that they possessed in law the power which they claimed; that the power itself was reasonable in the circumstances of the district in which it was exercised; and that even if there did exist any general objection to such an order as that complained of, Mr. Jenkins had, by his own proceedings, estopped himself from advancing such objections. The rule *nisi* obtained for a *certiorari*, was therefore discharged with costs. On the following day, at a general Court of Sewers, the solicitor reported the result, but the court eventually resolved to defer the execution of the amercement until it was ascertained what steps Mr. Jenkins would take in the matter.

COVENT GARDEN THEATRE.—A peep into the theatre the other afternoon startled us. All the inside of the house is taken out, and the bare inclosing walls stand exposed their whole height, to a depth of twenty or thirty feet below the level of the pit floor. The interior was filling with scaffolds; men in every corner were shouting and hauling; while the old chandelier, under the decorated ceiling, throwing light upon the hubbub and ruin, served to recal its former appearance, and produced a most singular effect.

VICTORIA PARK, DOVER.—A building site possessing features of great interest, and commanding the most extensive sea and land views, with a south-western aspect, and backed by the castle, is now being prepared and laid out for building operations, to commence early in the spring. It is intended to erect about forty houses of the first class in the form of a crescent. About 40,000 loads of soil will require to be moved to fit it for its destined purposes. The works are being carried out by a company under the directions of Mr. J. Walker and Mr. W. Hundly.

INTERFERENCE WITH WORKMEN.—Seventeen working engineers and iron-founders have been committed for trial at the Liverpool assizes, for conspiring to prevent workmen from entering and from continuing in employment at the Viaduct Foundry, near Warrington, which the "Trades Union" had "picquetted."

PARIS.—A chapel, painted by M. Amaury Duval, has just been uncovered at the Church of St. Germain-l'Auxerrois, and four other chapels by different artists are to be shortly exposed to view at Notre-Dame-de-Lorette and St. Sulpice. We learn from the *Athenæum* that the following statues have been recently placed on their pedestals in the hemicycle of the bureau of the Chamber of Peers:—That of Colbert, by M. Debay, the father; of Malesherbes, by M. Bra; of Portalis, by M. Ramus; of D'Aguesseau, by M. Maindron; of Turgot, by M. Legendre Hérald; of Mathieu Molé, by M. Bare, the son; and of L'Hôpital, by M. Valois. In a recess to the left of the President has been placed the statue of St. Louis, by M. Dumont;—another niche in face of the chair is destined to receive the figure of Charlemagne, executing by M. Etex. The statues of Montesquieu, by M. Nanteuil and Etienne Pasquier, by M. Foyatier, are placed at the two extremities of the library of the Chamber. Queen Christina has just had constructed in the garden of Malmaison, a little Gothic chapel, in imitation of the Sainte-Chapelle, at the Palais de Justice.

PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have appeared in the current newspapers for contract-tenders for the restoration of part of Trinity Church, Coventry; the construction of a large dock, &c., at Gloucester; the various works necessary in the erections of Woodhouse Grove School,—of a number of houses, lodges, stations, and other works, on the Midland, and York and North Midland, railways,—and of several branch and other lines of railway and portions of lines, connected with the York and North Midland, the Rugby and Leamington, the Stirling and Dunfermline, and the Glasgow, Paisley, and Kilmarnock railways,—and for earth-work and masonry on the North-Western, —numerous carriages, trucks, &c., for the Leeds and Thirsk,—sawed oak piles and keys for the Isle of Wight Commissioners of Sewers,—and materials for repairing roads in Worcestershire.

ROOF-BEARING FEAST.—On the 11th inst., a dinner was given at the Bell Inn, Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire, to the contractors and workmen engaged in building the new church at Kingsholm, Gloucester, and the [illegible] both under the direction of the same architect, Mr. F. Niblett, and by the same builders, Messrs. Ashbee and Colerton. The architect was in the chair, and much good feeling was exhibited.

WARMING RAILWAY CARRIAGES.—*Chauffe-rettes* heated with hot water, have been introduced into the first-class carriages on the Amiens Line with great increase of comfort to the passengers.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"*G. C.*"—We know of no objections to the use of slate for covering a well. For the opening named we would have 1½-inch thick.

"*C. C.*"—We called, but were too late to see the furniture in question.

"*A Fire-brick Consumer*" asks for "The History of Fire-stone." We will seek an opportunity to give it.

"*J. B.*"—Thanks. It seems of scarcely sufficient importance to engrave.

"*S. B.*"—We are gratified by the recognition.

"*A.*" (Dorchester), cannot have the numbers he wishes we are sorry to say. We shall be happy to receive the remarks offered.

"*R. B.*"—Part of the specification shall appear.

"*N. M.*"—An oven-builder is correct in saying that fire-bricks are quite unsuitable for the construction of ovens, but not so in recommending soft half-burnt bricks. We will write privately on this and as to naves of wheels.

"*B. M.*"—We cannot give the prices required.

"*Architectural Modelling.*"—*J. S. M.* says, "can any of your correspondents inform me what is the best material for architectural modelling? An article which can be used with the greatest facility in designing, so as to be moulded into any required form as readily as possible is needed."

"*J. M.*"—We cannot give an opinion on such slender information; but should doubt the power of the neighbour to prevent a fire being made.

"*Glass.*"—Correspondents are inquiring for glass milk-pans and coloured glass roof-tiles. Are these obtainable?

"*J. S.*"—We believe that the minister will be heard as well with the open roof as he is now with the flat ceiling. We may perhaps consider the subject at some length.

"*G. H.*"—may rest assured that the fault rests only with his bookseller. THE BUILDER is invariably published early on Friday morning.

Received.—"B. B.," "J. R. N.," "G. H.," "Health of Towns Association," "W. H.," "H. S.," "J. W."

Books Received.—"Instructions in Practical Surveying, Topographical Plan Drawing, &c.," by G. D. Burr, Prof.; second edition (Murray, Albemarle-street). "The Life of James Gandon, Esq., Architect," with essays; edited by the late Mr. T. J. Mulvany (Hodges and Smith, Dublin). "Lectures on Painting and Design," by B. R. Haydon; second volume (Longman and Co., Paternoster-row). "Patent Journal Almanac."

"*Books and Addresses.*"—We have not time to point out books or find addresses.

*** Reviews of several books, especially of Mr. Holtzapffel's excellent work on "Turning and Mechanical Manipulation," have been unavoidably delayed.

TO PROVINCIAL READERS.—In reply to complaints of the irregular delivery of THE BUILDER in provincial towns, we beg leave to state that it is invariably published by seven o'clock on Friday morning; and, that the irregularity complained of rests entirely with the parties through whom it is obtained.

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WORCESTER ENCAUSTIC TILES. Specimens of these beautiful Tiles in all their Varieties, may be seen and information obtained at the London Agents, Messrs. GRIEVE and GELLIER, Marble-wharf, Belvidere-road, Waterloo-bridge, or at the Encaustic Tile Works, of Messrs. F. ST. JOHN G. BARR, and Co., Worcester.

ENCAUSTIC, VENETIAN, and other PATENT TILES and MOSAIC PAVEMENTS may be purchased at MINTON and Co.'s warehouse, 9, Albion-place, Surrey side of Blackfriars-bridge.—J. M. BLASHFIELD, Agent. The above tiles have lately been considerably reduced in price.

N.B. An assortment of plain and ornamental door furniture, tiles, and tiles for fire-places, &c.

TO BRICK AND TILE MAKERS.

THE AINSLIE PATENT TILE MACHINE COMPANY (James Smith, Esq., of Deanstone, Chairman), invite attention to their improved Brick and Tile Machines, and to their new improved Patent Kilns for drying and burning Bricks and Tiles, by which a saving of from two-thirds to three-fourths of the fuel is effected, and all the articles are burnt equally without loss or damage. The Machines at work, and a model of the Kilns, to be seen, and all particulars to be obtained from Mr. JOHN PATON, Secretary, 193*a*, Piccadilly, London.—Agents wanted.

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ARCHITECTS, Builders, and others may now be supplied with these ornamental Tiles, which for security, beauty, and effect, surpass every other kind of roofing, whilst their cost but little exceeds the covering with common pantiles, and their superiority over slating is at once apparent. For prospectuses and full particulars, apply to Mr. J. G. HUGHES, at the Company's Offices, 154, Strand.

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TO ARCHITECTS.

THE attention of Architects is directed towards the new Patent for CARVING IN WOOD, STONE, and MARBLE, by MACHINERY. This interesting invention will enable them to see their plans carried out, which in many cases they are prevented doing, owing to the enormous expense attending hand-carving. The work, when executed by this machine, whether in stone or wood, has the appearance of hand-carving done in a masterly style. Monuments beautifully executed to any design, at an immense saving in price. The works are in full operation, and Architects are invited to inspect their merit at Eccleston-place, Eccleston-street, Pimlico, late Chauntrey's foundry.

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